



The Southwester

Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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Boat-Home Tour held at Gangplank Marina

By Diane Auer Jones

Have you ever walked along the Southwest waterfront and wondered what it is like to live or work on the boats that line the Washington Channel? On Saturday, Oct. 20, residents of the Gangplank Marina — the largest live-aboard community on the East Coast — opened their boat homes and boat offices to show the benefits of their “less is more” lifestyle.

The 22 boats that were included in the self-guided tour ranged from large floating barges and luxurious powerboats to funky old houseboats and even a compact catamaran sailboat, with owners who are equally diverse. Yet despite their many differences, a singular commitment

See “Tour,” page 12



Laura & John McLaughlin's Cabin Cruiser, *Inseicheable*. (Photo by Saadia Athias)

A Community Conversation on Quality Schools

By Meg Brinckman

On Oct. 1, D.C. Deputy Mayor for Education De'Shawn Wright, Ward 6 BOE Representative Monica Warren-Jones and Ward 2 BOE Representative Mary Lord welcomed parents, grandparents, caregivers, teachers, counselors and other community members to the Amidon-Bowen Multipurpose Room. The program, A Community Conversation, which has been conducted citywide, addresses the question, “How can we make sure that all children in D.C. have access to a quality education?” The purpose is to provide input and recommendation on how to provide quality education for all D.C. children.

The Ward 6 table expressed concerns that parents are not sending their children to our local, neighborhood schools based on perceptions that carry over from the past and often do not represent the situation today. The staff members from Jefferson Academy, which is in its second year of implementing the International Baccalaureate Program for Middle Schools, has begun a program of home visitations to help parents

understand the progress and change being made at the school.

The renovation of Amidon-Bowen provides a welcoming environment for students and parents. Jefferson has not yet been upgraded and its “classic school building” appearance does not represent, in the minds of many, the innovative



Ward 6 community members and faculty members from Jefferson Academy discuss issues facing Southwest schools. (Photo by Meg Brinckman)

program that is going on inside.

Several examples were given of the support given to the two local schools in Southwest by a wide range of community groups and organizations. Just recently the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, one of the Community Partners, raised

See “Conversation,” page 11

Inside:

■ An Unusual Canvas

Steve Tanner owns the church that was turned into a work of art by Atlanta-based artist Alex “Hense” Brewer. Story, page 11. (Photo below by Perry Klein)



■ Elections

Read statements from candidates for ANC 6D, page 4.

■ SW ArtsFest

Thousands of people participated in the many activities that were part of SW ArtsFest in September. Story and more photos, page 9. (Photo at right by Saadia Athias)



Mixed-Use Development Planned for Area

From a release

Skanska USA Commercial Development Inc., which pursues investment and development opportunities across the United States, and Grosvenor Americas (GA) have announced plans to develop a mixed-use complex of more than 650,000 square feet in the District's Capitol Riverfront district in SE. The mixed-use development will be located between M and N Street, fronted by First Street, just steps from Nationals Park and Navy Yard Metro station.

Skanska will be responsible for the development of an 11-story, 224,000-square-foot office building with 11,000 square feet of additional retail space on the ground floor. The building will feature a roof top terrace and green roof, as well as a below-grade parking garage that will provide more than 140 parking spaces. Grosvenor Americas plans to develop the remainder of the block with a mix of uses including residential and retail space.

“The flourishing Capitol Riverfront District provides one of the most exciting opportunities for development in Washington, D.C.,” said Robert Ward, Skanska's Executive Vice President and Regional Manager. “This mixed-use development promises to offer great value to its

growing community and to local businesses and will ensure that the area continues to thrive.”

“Grosvenor, which has been developing dynamic urban neighborhoods for over 300 years, is pleased to bring its ‘Living Cities’ vision to the exciting Capitol Riverfront district of Washington, D.C.,” said Don Capobres, Senior Vice President, Development, Grosvenor Americas.

Skanska USA Building will serve as the construction manager for the office building, which will be designed by Gensler Architects and will aim for LEED Platinum certification. McCaffery Interests will oversee construction of the apartment, retail and hotel portion of the development on behalf of Grosvenor.

Skanska also developed Rosslyn's newest green development, 1776 Wilson Boulevard, a 5-story building with flexible and efficient office and retail space, as well as 733 10th and G, a 171,171-square-foot office building that was recently sold to Jamestown properties. Grosvenor Americas has a portfolio of approximately 1.6 million square feet of office, retail, and hotel space in the D.C. metro area. Its developments in the national capital region include District, a mixed-use building with 125 luxury apartments in Logan Circle, delivering in late 2012.

Friends of Southwest Continues Awards

By Coralie Farlee

Friends of Southwest D.C. (FOS) had a great annual meeting earlier this year when we heard from various awardees with “stories” about how our grants were used. FOS grants included: to EmmaUS, which provided outings to the Philadelphia National Constitution Center over the summer for youth in the Near Southwest; to SW Comm-Unity Forum which coordinated a day of children’s activities at Lansburgh Park; to SWNA for partial support of the celebration of the Titanic, for scholarships to college and for internships to learn computer rehabilitation; a scholarship for a participant in Arena Stage’s Camp Arena Stage program; several scholarships at D.C. Sail and to AppleTree for support for a nutrition program for parents.

Since we made our first grants in 1999, we have made awards totaling over \$100,000 to

organizations working for the benefit of Southwest and its residents. We now have renewed energy as well as new organizations requesting grants and others requesting additional funding. Our new brochure is provided as an enclosure to this issue of *The Southwester*; we are in the process of developing a new website.

We currently have an offer from a donor who will match donations up to \$2,000 if made by Dec. 31. Donations may be made by postal mail to: Coralie Farlee, President, FOS, 389 O St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024; or by credit card at www.Razoo.com and enter “Friends of Southwest DC” in the ‘Find Cause or Fund-raiser’ box. FOS has been a 501(c)3 organization since its incorporation in 1988; all donations are therefore tax deductible.

Please contact Coralie Farlee at 202-554-4407 for information about how to submit applications for funding or to volunteer or serve on the Board.

Southwest Real Estate Update

Sold dollar volume is down substantially from September 2011; this is not a cause for alarm but a potential indicator that inventory is declining. An exciting stat to look at this month is the average days on market of 34 opposed to 67 in 2011. (The information below is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.)

	September 2012	September 2011	% Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$3,508,900	\$4,446,228	-21.08%
Avg Sold Price	\$233,927	\$234,012	-0.04%
Median Sold Price	\$223,000	\$220,000	1.36%
Units Sold	15	19	-21.05%
Avg Days on Market	34	87	-60.92%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$237,913	\$245,604	-3.13%
Avg Sale Price to Original List Price Ratio	98%	91.10%	7.48%

Courtesy of Jason Martin, a real estate professional & resident of Southwest. He may be contacted by phone at (202) 641-0299 or by e-mail at jason@jasonmartingroup.com.



An artist’s rendering of the playground for children aged 5-11.

School Playground Construction to Begin

By Martin R. Welles

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School will begin construction on a dramatic playground renovation that will enhance the learning experience for the children who attend the school and provide a recreational after hours play spot for the community. The existing playground equipment is tucked behind the school and unless you ventured there you would not know it existed. Also, the existing equipment is next to the academic wings of the school which means that curious minds inside the classroom are distracted by the outside play. The new playground will overcome these shortcomings.

The signature piece of playground equipment is designed for children 5-11 years old and will be highly visible from I Street. By moving the 5-11 playground out from behind the school, children can play without distracting other children inside the classrooms. It will also cut down on security issues that have been a constant problem for many years.

The non-traditional looking equipment is specifically designed to develop motor skills and coordination while providing challenges to all abilities of children. The silver arches of the playground add a modern visual element to the I Street corridor — while the lemon, purple, and tangerine accents will add a splash of color and also mimic the colors inside the school. The newly visible playground will encourage more children to use the playground after school

hours — creating a vibrant and lively space for the community. It will also serve as a recruiting tool to provide exterior appeal to match the stunning interior renovation.

Additionally, there will be a separate, new playground for 3 to 5 year old children. Again, the playground will be constructed away from the academic environment and will be set on the grassy area behind the gymnasium. It will be visible from G Street and also from I Street. The 3 to 5 year old playground will have a deck and post structure with several slides and some independent play pieces. A key element of the 3-5 playground will be an open area with artificial turf. By providing a play space with artificial surfaces, it will cut down on the mosquitoes and also dry quicker after a rain.

A brand new feature of the playground will be a “professional” style artificial turf playfield. The playfield will be suitable for soccer and football and contain a high grade artificial turf surface which will drain water quickly. About 30,000 pounds of tiny rubber balls will fill in between the blades of turf and reduce injuries. This state of the art artificial turf surface is similar to those used on professional football fields.

The playground is expected to be completed in December 2012.

■ Martin R. Welles is President of the Amidon-Bowen PTA and has three children at Amidon-Bowen.

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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., please leave a message at 202-580-8188.

From The Southwester Staff

It never ceases to amaze how much the Southwest community contributes - both to the neighborhood and the success of this paper. Among the many stories this month, we’re especially proud of the community arts events that have come to Southwest over the past weeks and the generosity of our neighbors at Gangplank Marina who opened their homes to visitors on October 20th. But don’t take our word for it - take a look at the articles and photos our contributors have provided that chronicle the latest installment of life in Southwest.

This month we’re also marking the upcoming election with an election supplement highlighting our ANC candidates and the At-Large Councilmember debate held at Westminster Presbyterian in early October. Still making up your mind? We encourage you to go online to learn more about the candidates who will appear on your ballot. The DC Board of Elections and Ethics (dcboee.org) and DC League of Women Voters (lwvdc.org) provide information which can help you make an informed decision on Election Day. Above all, don’t forget to vote! (Information about voter registration, polling places, and early voting is available online at dcboee.org.)

LUCKY KABOB RESTAURANT

Grill Steaks • Subs • Sandwiches • Chicken • Fish • Pizza

Indian restaurant now open in Southwest, located at 1548 First Street, SW, next door to Shulman Liquors. Featuring all-day buffet, takeout and free delivery with \$20 order

Catering available

Pizza also featured – no extra charge for toppings

Open for breakfast at 7:30 am on weekdays, 9 am on Saturdays and 10 am on Sundays.

1548 First Street, SW • 202-863-9299

Council At-Large Candidates Debate in SW

By Kael Anderson

The first debate for the two At-Large Councilmember seats demonstrated that D.C. voters have a lively and diverse slate of candidates. Sponsored by the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, the Sept. 27 event was made possible with the generous hospitality of Westminster Presbyterian Church. NBC4 Reporter Tom Sherwood skillfully moderated the event, weaving light-hearted and witty remarks while calming the more passionate moments of the debate. The debate attracted a number of officials including Councilmembers Tommy Wells and Yvette Alexander. WTOP reporter Mark Segraves — @SegravesWTOP — live-tweeted the event, from which the following account is significantly compiled.

During the candidates' opening statements, Michael Brown announced that his record "is hard to run against." AJ Cooper touted his US Marine Corps service, Leon Swain his D.C. Taxicab Commission service and Anne Wilcox her work with Occupy D.C. Sherwood's first query was on ethics, with Swain declaring the issue as the most important, David Grasso confirming "this is the reason I ran" and Mary Brooks Beatty declaring "there's a crisis of confidence." In a follow up campaign issue query, Beatty directly challenged Brown's matter-of-fact approach — "nobody up here is perfect" — and retorted "I agree nobody's perfect, but some of us are better than others." Sherwood continued with the ethical theme by polling the candidates on whether CFO Natwar Gandhi should "stay or go" in light of his department's questionable

management practices. Grosso was supportive: "I have a lot of respect for Dr. Gandhi," but most of the candidates responded unfavorably.

Later, the ethics debate heated up: AJ Cooper lashed out at Brown, declaring "most of what you're saying is a lie."

Shifting to a pet peeve of many, Sherwood asked the candidates what their opinion is of the red light, speed and now stop sign cameras proliferating throughout D.C. and costing drivers millions of dollars. The candidates expressed a notable amount of agreement on the matter: disfavor. Cooper concluded "they're un-American," Beatty, "it's predatory," and Swain, "it's a racket." Grosso and Wilcox struck a more conciliatory tone, with the latter suggesting that we instead need more policemen on the street.

An initial set of audience questions focused on 'bread and butter' issues like education and crime, but later turned emotional. One audience member delivered a long-winded expression of gratitude to Brown for reaching out to help one of his GLBT relatives. When he declined Sherwood's request to stop and ask a question, Sherwood asked the candidates how the long-disadvantaged GLBT community could be better supported. Responses were vague but supportive. Brown pointed to his "legislative accomplishments." But the mood spiked when Cooper accused Brown of orchestrating a speech praising Michael Brown, which Brown denied. At this point, the audience member started arguing with Cooper. Sherwood threatened to end the debate before things calmed down.

Fortunately, the debate ended up on an upswing, with Sherwood lobbying a softball

— "Have the Nationals been worth it?" The candidates were uniformly supportive, though some were more fatalistic: "we've got them now" concluded Cooper.

Unfortunately as they departed, attendees were quickly reminded of the timeliness of the policy debate. Police were investigating a Coun-

cilmember staff's Land Rover broken into while parked at the church's lot for the debate. One eyewitness saw the offender scrambling away, but it's unclear if any charges have been filed.

■ Kael Anderson is President of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA).

ANC 6D Candidate Statements

The Southwester invited candidates for ANC 6D to submit statements about their candidacy. The following candidates responded, and their statements are printed in their entirety, without any editing.

A map of the single-member districts (SMD), which were redrawn after the 2010 Census, is available at dcoee.org/maps.asp.

On the Ballot

SMD 1	Donna L. Hopkins
SMD 2	Ed Kaminski, Damon C. Patton, Cara Shockley*
SMD 3	Ron McBee*
SMD 4	Andy Litsky*
SMD 5	Grace E. Daughtridge, Roger Moffat*
SMD 6	Rhonda Hamilton*
SMD 7	David Garber*

* Indicates an incumbent

Italics indicate a known write-in candidate

SMD 1

Donna L. Hopkins



Southwest homeowner since 2001; served two terms on the THM4 Board. I want our neighborhood to be a safe and pleasant place to live and work for both current residents and those who will join our community in the future. I will encourage measured development in the neighborhood, seeking a healthy balance between active businesses, quiet residential areas, and sustainable green space. Development decisions being made now and in the near future will have a profound impact on the quality of life and investment potential in Southwest for decades to come, and I would like to help influence these decisions.

SMD 2

Ed Kaminski



Ed Kaminski
1025 1st SE
Washington, D.C.
KaminskiEd@comcast.net
571-242-1446

A resident of 6D02, serve as Board Member, Capitol Riverfront BID, President Velocity Condominium, Vice President 1150 K Street Condominium Association,

Volunteer for YearUp.org, and founder of Internet start-up in California.

ANC members serve all citizens for better outcomes, but an ANC that serves as a yes or no proxy in a city approval process will never make changes needed to serve our community.

To Capitol Park IV and Capitol Park Plaza, my commitment is a pact for ANC action. Look no further for your next ANC commissioner. Ed Kaminski would like your support at the voting booth for change.

Damon C. Patton



Within Single Member District 6D02 there are 2,000 individuals who reside in two different quadrants: SW and SE. The economic development of this neighborhood stands to change not only the cityscape of

SW and SE, it will shape how residents view and interact within our SMD. Companies that wish to develop the waterfront must include the residents in all conversations about the same. Not every opportunity will work for this area. Therefore, as Commissioner, my job is to cham-

SWNA's Computer Sponsorship Program

SWNA recently received over 300 computers donated by The Graduate School USA to refurbish and make available to our neighborhood public schools and the SW community. We also continue to welcome computers from other organizations and individual donors.

SWNA's Technology Task Force has been rebuilding these computers donated by the community and is making them available as part of our mission to reduce the "digital divide" in Southwest. But it averages around \$100 to refurbish a computer. Refurbishing involves installing a Windows operating system, Microsoft Office and other software, and usually hardware upgrades are needed. SWNA is a Microsoft Registered Refurbisher.

SWNA is seeking sponsors for these projects:

- \$1,000 to sponsor computers for Jefferson's school library and Technology Center
- \$4,000 to sponsor computers for Amidon-Bowen's new Computer Lab and classrooms
- \$1,000 each to sponsor computer centers in three public housing locations in Southwest



- \$800 to sponsor Computer-for-Kids students
- \$500 to sponsor notebook computers for students receiving SWNA college scholarships.

If you are able to sponsor all or part of these projects, please contact Dr. Perry Klein, Chair of SWNA's Technology Task Force at 488-7430 or e-mail perry@thesouthwester.com. We can accept telephone sponsorship by credit card, or please mail your contribution to "SWNA" at P.O. Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024 with a note indicating which project you would like to sponsor. We will be sure that you are recognized for your sponsorship.

SWNA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) community organization whose mission is to help improve the quality of life of residents of the Southwest community, and contributions are tax-deductible.



Continued on Next Page

pion the interests of my constituents and see that developers enhance the community we live in and not simply profit from it.

Cara Shockley*



Our unique neighborhood has been increasing in population and popularity. Over the past two years, I have researched environmental laws – and especially the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative requirements

– to make certain that all new buildings meet or exceed these requirements. I have read books on architecture, transit policy, and urban planning and listened to my neighbors to educate myself on the needs of our neighborhood.

To help maintain the dynamic character of our neighborhood, I ask you to **write me in for ANC6D 02** and let me continue to serve as your commissioner.

SMD 3

Ron McBee*



Ron McBee has been a resident of Southwest since the early 80's and the past Chair of the ANC. He has a masters degree in biology. Ron currently serves on a number of SW committees and boards. He is committed to continue

to work to ensure SW and our near SE community becomes one of this city's most livable,

walkable, and safe neighborhoods with local focused retail, cafes, and with development that enhances our residential character. Ron is working diligently to make our local schools top "quality." His vision is making development work for our community: employment opportunities, affordable housing, and pedestrian safety are vital elements for our changing community. Get the Buzz — A Vote for Ron is a Vote for a strong community.

SMD 4

Andy Litsky*



Andy Litsky has lived in Southwest since 1977. He is a founding member of Tiber Island Cooperative Homes and for seven terms on the ANC — five years as Chairman — has represented the residents

living in the Waterfront highrises and at the Gangplank Marina. Over the years, he has been in the forefront, representing SW during the redevelopment of Waterside Mall, the construction of Nationals Park and The Wharf. Andy will continue to ensure that the interests of our existing community will be met during all phases of Wharf construction as this vibrant addition to our neighborhood rises at the Southwest Waterfront.

SMD 5

Grace E. Daughtridge

Grace E. Daughtridge earned B.S.B.A. in Finance and International Business from Ameri-

can University. She is not only native Washingtonian, S.W. resident, but owns D.C.R.A. registered small business, home improvement, Grace E. L.L.C., since 2004. She is serving as elected 2012 secretary of 1D CAC MPD. She reestablished SW's historic Japanese Elm on G Street Washington D.C.'s 11th largest tree with UFA. She was the community project organizer for 2008 Casey Trees planting at CSCA with 28 new trees on M, 4th, N, and Delaware. As 1st District Representative for SWNA she initiated SWNA Employment Task Force to promote local hiring.

(No photo provided.)

Roger Moffat*



A reawakening ANC6D demands a Commissioner with know-how in working with developers and D.C. agencies, and in identifying & protecting available resources for citizens. Insight into what is needed,

reaching out to learn what **you** want, and a level head to negotiate on your behalf --- These, I have delivered for more than 15 years. Through advocating sensible development, limiting on-street parkers (RPP) for new buildings, ensuring development plans address traffic, and by promoting bicycle education and safety, I will continue championing **your** interests. Vote to Keep Know-How at Work for YOU! Please Vote for Roger Moffatt. Moffatt@verizon.net. 202-488-0288

SMD 6

Rhonda Hamilton*



I love my community. I enjoy helping people and I work hard to have a positive impact on my neighborhood. I am very happy to live in one of the most diverse areas in the city. I give back to my community

because I care a great deal about the families and individuals who live here. I'm not only a part of SW. I'm a part of one of the best communities in this city. I'm proud to serve my community.

SMD 7

David Garber*



I am so proud to represent the Navy Yard — Ballpark neighborhood and the larger ANC. My goal as your representative is to shape the Southeast and Southwest waterfront neighborhoods into places that look great and that

function in ways that best serve our residents. In my next term I promise to continue to work hard to push these values — especially focusing on building more and better neighborhood schools, encouraging diverse transportation options, supporting quality businesses that want to invest here, and activating our waterfronts. Current issue focus: bringing paddle sport rentals to the Anacostia and working to open Van Ness Elementary.

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Southwest Civic Leader Thelma D. Jones Receives Award

By the Southwester Staff

Southwest civic leader Thelma D. Jones received the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy "Standing in the Gap Award" at its recent Annual Celebrity Auction at the Arnold and Porter scenic venue. Jones was recognized for her outstanding volunteer service with the organization since the early 2000s.

In praising Jones' long-standing commitment to the organization, D.C. Campaign Executive Director Brenda R. Miller said: "She is a remarkable woman and an extraordinary volun-

teer." D.C. Campaign's most treasured "Standing in the Gap Award" draws its inspiration from the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 22:30 which says: "And I sought for someone among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap...."

Trained as a parent peer educator, Jones has co-facilitated dozens of workshops on "How to Talk to Teens About Love, Sex and Relationships" in various nonprofit settings throughout the city, reaching more than 125 parents, including teen moms. In addition, she has facilitated a host of trainings with various hospital medical

staff on the importance of communicating with teens in a culturally competent and sensitive manner to help ensure optimal care and follow-up.

Seeking to increase greater awareness and funding for the organization on a global level, Jones was instrumental in ensuring that D.C. Campaign was included as part of the World Bank's workplace giving efforts, enabling the organization to receive hundreds of dollars. She has also helped to advocate for teen pregnancy on a national level by participating in briefings on Capitol Hill with D.C. Campaign Youth Leadership Task Force and has written articles in *The Southwester*, among other publications, over the years about D.C. Campaign's teen pregnancy efforts and the outstanding work of D.C. Campaign's Youth Leadership Task Force.

Jones continues to identify ways of changing the conversation on teen pregnancy and is looking forward to participating in D.C. Campaign's "Take a Step to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Walk and Rally" on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Jones invites her fellow Southwest residents, including teenagers, to save the date and join her as



Thelma Jones with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder at the awards ceremony. (Photo by Perry Klein)

she continues to change the conversation and to help make teen pregnancy a thing of the past.

D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy was founded in 1999 with the mission of cutting the city's teen pregnancy rate in half. In 2005, D.C. Campaign not only met but also exceeded its original goal. Today, with the support of many organizations and dedicated individuals like Thelma D. Jones, D.C. Campaign is focused on cutting the teen pregnancy rate in half again no later than 2015.

Highlights of ANC 6D Meeting

By B.K. Lunde

On Oct. 15, our neighborhood Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 6D) met for the last time before the November election.

They approved two-year extensions for two construction projects, one in Southwest, and the other in near-Southeast.

The Southwest project involves two lots by the Waterfront Station shopping center. One lot is where the Bank of America trailer used to be and the other lot is between the CVS and the library. The Commission voted to support the extension for this project when the developers agreed to make the lot where the Bank of America used to be safe for those using canes and wheel chairs, as well as pedestrians. The developers plan to plant some grass next spring. The path from the library to the CVS will be paved on the other lot.

The Southeast project is for an office building at 250 M St. SE. This is the second extension they have requested. They cannot obtain financing until they have 70 percent of the space preleased, which they hope to have in two years.

The ANC denied a request for support for a design review for a residential and retail building at 1111 New Jersey Ave. SE, at the NJ exit of the Navy Yard Metro, diagonally across from the DOT building. The ANC voted six to one to not support the design at this time. This was the first time the whole ANC had seen the project. Commissioner David Garber had been working with the developers for a few weeks. His district includes the proposed development. The developers had responded to a committee in that area that wanted more retail spaces on the ground floor, rather than town houses. They did not propose Leed Certification, saying that designing for one would reduce the number of residential units in the building, due to ventilation requirements. They proposed 174 parking spaces for the 312 residential units.

The ANC did support the proposal for curb

cuts for a development covering the north half of the 900 block from South Capitol Street to Half Street SE.

A proposal for paddle sports rentals, such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards at Diamond Teague Park at the pier on 1st St. SE was discussed. The pier is available for launching private boats, but it is woefully underutilized. This proposal seemed to interest the commissioners. A representative of City Council Member Tommy Wells said that the project had not been coordinated with him. The management of the park will transfer from the Gangplank Marina to Washington's Department of Parks and Recreation January 1. The Commission did not think that a contractor could be obtained by then, and thought that the project should be coordinated with the Ward Council Member, so they voted to delay consideration until next month.

The ANC voted to support a second amendment to the voluntary agreement on their Alcoholic Beverage Control license by the Boomerang Boat Tours. They are planning to operate a second boat, berthed at the Washington Marina, but travelling between Georgetown and Diamond Teague Park, at 1st St SE.

The Friends of the Duck Pond are planning two events. Saturday, Oct. 27, from noon-2 p.m. will be Fall Fun Day at the pond. Also, Saturday, Nov. 17, the Friends of the Duck Pond, PAWS of SW, and Arena State will sponsor My Fair Doggie, in conjunction with My Fair Lady at Arena Stage. Prizes will be given for the best dog owner costumes in line with the play.

The Southwest Library book sale is also on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. By joining the Friends of the Southwest Library for \$10, you can come to the sale on Wednesday, Oct. 24 and have your pick of books from 6-8 p.m.

■ The next ANC meeting will be Nov. 19 at 1100 Fourth St. SW.

Keep Know-How at Work for YOU!

Vote for Roger



MOFFATT

ANC 6D 05

Our growth demands a Commissioner with *know-how* to work with developers & DC agencies to effectively bring it about. 16 years of hands-on work on *this* ANC gives me that *know-how!*

- I will advocate sensible development & limit on-street parkers (RPP) -- new buildings.
- I will promote bicycle use, access, education, & safety.
- And I will seek out your input on issues and champion your interests!

If you agree that know-how works best, please **Vote for Roger MOFFATT**

Paid for by Roger Moffatt for ANC 6D05, Summary Financial Report to be filed with DC OCF



Cara Shockley
Write-in Candidate
ANC6D02

- ▲ I've worked on community benefits agreements to provide preferences for local residents, both regarding jobs available through First Source and affordable housing units.
- ▲ I have researched the environmental requirements of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and made certain those requirements are adhered to in PUDs.
- ▲ I love this neighborhood and have supported park initiatives, historic preservation efforts, and locally owned businesses.
- ▲ To help maintain the dynamic character of our neighborhood, I ask for your write-in vote to continue to serve as its commissioner.

Fifth Graders Sample Life on the High Seas

By Meg Brinckman

On the beautiful sunny morning of Sept. 29, Ms. Huges's 5th grade class boarded the *Pride of Baltimore II*. The weather was a perfect 65 degrees. Chief Mate, Hank Moseley, and crewmate Christine McCormick, led the class to the ship. The kids were a bit nervous boarding and being so close to the water, but after boarding they were full of curiosity and had great questions to ask the crew.

Chief Mate Hank Moseley, took half the class and lectured on history and design of the ship, the importance of this ship in the War of 1812, and how these ships called "Baltimore Clippers" were so successful defeating the British ships. This specific ship was built in 1988, and is a Replica of a real ship from the War of 1812. He talked about how this ship had sailed to Europe, Asia, Great Lakes, the East Coast and West Coast. The kids were full of great questions about rooms on the ship and if the crew sleeps on hammocks.

Delving deep into American History, Sha'lisa Battle, age 9, asked, "Why did they have the Battle of 1812?" The Chief Mate recounted how the British feared the new, great, fast American Baltimore Clipper ships that threatened their objective to dominate the East Coast and to take the American Capitol.

He talked about the significance of Fort McHenry in Baltimore and how the American flag flew high above the Fort, which moved Frances Scott Key to write a poem about the event, which later became the American National Anthem. When Hank asked if anyone knew what this important song was, Janiah Williams, age 10, yelled out "Star Spangled Banner!"

Crewmate Kris Jones took the other half of the class and showed them how to physically set and take-in the jib. This was the fun part of the



Students enjoy their time on the Pride of Baltimore II, a replica of a vessel that sailed in the War of 1812. (Photo by Yvette Marquez)

trip. They learned about ropes, sails, and how they work to raise and set the sail. Back in the day there were no motors, and everything was done by hand. The kids lined up and grabbed hold of the rope. They were then taught what "Up Behind" and "Hull Away" meant. When Kris yelled "Up Behind," the kids dropped the rope. When he yelled "Hull Away," the kids pulled on the rope. You could just see the excitement on their faces once they saw the sail rising from all of their hard work.

■ *Meg Brinckman is a longtime contributor to The Southwester on education issues. With reporting by Amidon-Bowen parent Yvette Marquez.*

St. Dominic to Hold Pre-Christmas Bazaar, Craft Sale

St. Dominic Church, at Seventh and E streets SW, will hold a "get ready for Christmas" Bazaar and Craft Sale from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 3, from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4, and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5. Proceeds will be used to build a parish kitchen.

The sale will feature one-of-a-kind Christmas decorations and handcrafted gifts, including all types of scarves, tissue box covers, fabric wreaths and crocheted flower pins. It will also offer Lenox Christmas china, music boxes and vases.

There will also be a silent auction featuring an antique quilt and other great handmade items. Final bids will be accepted no later than 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5.

For more information, contact Sally Wise at (202) 554-7863.



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- **Web Site:** www.youtube.com/user/VoteEdKaminski
Film on new perspectives on Randall Park Modernization
- **Email:** kaminskied@comcast.net

Education:

BS in Economics & MEd in Secondary Education, University of Maryland;
MBA Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Graduate Studies, Penn State University

Qualifications:

- Board Member, Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District, Washington DC
- President, Velocity Condominium Association, Washington DC
- Vice President, 1150 K Street Condominium Association, Washington DC
- Volunteer for YearUp.org, a non-profit organization helping youth build early careers, Arlington, Virginia

What is the most important issue facing your neighborhood?

The challenge for all people active in our community, including the ANC, is to mobilize new and long-time residents to come together, be active in the representative 6D decision making.

My ANC role is not to be a limited specialist in one area of ANC government, such as alcohol licenses, but represent residents on all 6D issues as a responsive, active advocate. This is an important change over current practice to "specialize" interests of commissioners.

My door will always be open to my constituents; I will hold local SMD "Meet and discuss" meetings in the communities of Capitol Park IV Condominiums, Capitol Park Plaza and Twin Towers and the Capitol Riverfront to gather direct resident input for my positions at the ANC meetings.

What will you do to be an effective Commissioner?

I believe more can be done to speed our way to the vision of a modern 6D District neighborhood; more can be done from the City to attract new residents and families to Southwest, and provide better services and attention to city infrastructure in our Southwest communities.

Day to day, I will represent 6D02 but in turn work for the best outcomes for all of 6D. As our community grows, I will work closely with Southwest residents to ensure an environment that maintains the best qualities of an urban life including new local stores, retail places that serve our needs.

If elected, I will be an uncompromising 6D ANC advocate for improvements in the 6D public realm, including 6D streetscape, infrastructure, transportation, parking, safety, more bicycle lanes, walkable options, education and parks. Our neighborhood has long made accommodations to automobiles owned by nonresidents; it is time to make transit work for bikes, walking and water modes.

As an ANC commissioner, I will work closely with the city to find solutions for better on-street parking regulations that are more friendly to residents in Southwest areas where parking is scarce. High-rise residents without parking space have a very difficult parking situation.

I hold to a simple idea: Citizens in 6D and 6D02 engage with the ANC and City government; they weigh with their commissioner on parks, parking on the street, safety and resident environs, cleaning of streets, school curriculum of a new neighborhood school and obvious things like street lights. To better serve the citizens, the ANC councils work with the City to better parks, improve trash removal, insure safer streets, or rebuild old schools, and the neighborhood residents will enjoy and care for places they helped make.

Together, we can do better and I would like your support at the voting booth on November 6th to make these changes happen; early voting in Southwest starts on October 27th.

My Fair Lady at Arena Stage



(Photo courtesy of Arena Stage)

Want to Go?

WHAT: *My Fair Lady* (Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's musical, based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* and directed by Molly Smith)

WHERE: Fichandler Stage at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater

WHEN: Nov. 2, 2012 to Jan. 6, 2013

TICKETS AND INFORMATION: Call 202-554-9066 (General) or 202-488-3300 (Sales) or check online at www.arenastage.org

SPECIAL EVENT: Arena Stage invites members of the armed forces and their families to the second annual **Military Thanksgiving** Friday, November 23, 2012, with a meal and performance of *My Fair Lady*.

Eliza Doolittle is 100 years old this year. George Bernard Shaw created the character of the enchanting Cockney flower girl in his incisive social satire *Pygmalion* in 1912.

Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe would add music and lyrics and bring her to Broadway in 1956.

Now Artistic Director Molly Smith, in a fresh re-interpretation of *My Fair Lady*, brings Eliza Doolittle to Arena Stage.

How professor of phonetics Henry Higgins wagers he can transform a Cockney flower girl into an aristocratic lady, and is in turn transformed by Eliza Doolittle, is theater magic.

Lerner and Loewe's sparkling score – including enduring favorites like “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “Wouldn't It Be Lovely,” “The Rain in Spain,” “On the Street Where You Live” and “Get Me to the Church on Time” – is why *My Fair Lady* is “the perfect musical.”

Smith's production set the all-time box office record at the prestigious Shaw Festival in Canada in 2011 and she has reassembled her creative team to bring this breathtaking musical to Arena Stage.

In celebration of this production, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is seeking florists to participate in *Isn't She Lovely: Design in Bloom*, a costume-inspired floral arrangement contest. The local florists will be paired with a costume worn by a female lead in a past Arena Stage production.

These 25 signature dresses represent a wide variety of eras, regions and styles, including selected costumes from Arena hits (*Oklahoma!*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Camelot*, *Ruined*, *Light in the Piazza*, *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, *The Great White Hope* and *The Women*). The costumes and the floral arrangements will be displayed in the Catwalk Café at the Mead Center from November 30-December 2, 2012.

■ *Sheila Wickowski is a freelance arts and culture journalist and longtime resident of Southwest who has contributed work on history, theater, music, and the arts to area publications for more than twenty years.*

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

NOVEMBER

THURS 1, 8 A.M.-9:30 A.M. Councilman Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn café, 7th & Water Street SW.

SAT 3, 4 P.M.-6:00 P.M. Experience YOGA FOR GRIEF RELIEF at Westminster “Jazz” Church, 400 I Street, SW. The fact that grief is a normal reaction to loss doesn't make it any easier to go through. Yoga's healing power and wisdom can help us heal. This workshop offers yoga techniques that address mind, body and spirit, and help us move through the pain of loss to find release and relief. This workshop is suitable for anyone experiencing the pain of loss, from any cause. Led by Pamela Wilson, the requested donation is \$10. Any questions? Call 202/746-6654 or email mailto:wilsonpj108@verizon.net

SAT 3, 4 P.M.-7 P.M. St. Dominic ‘Get Ready for Christmas Bazaar and Craft Sale’, 7th & E St. S.W. The sale will feature one of a kind Christmas decorations and handcrafted gifts, including scarves, tissue box covers, fabric wreaths, croquetered flower pins. We also offer Lenox Christmas china, music boxes and vases.

SUN 4, 8 A.M.-7 P.M. St. Dominic ‘Get Ready for Christmas Bazaar and Craft Sale’ Silent Auction featuring antique quilt and other great handmade items. Final bids will be accepted no later than 2 P.M. on Mon. Nov. 5.

MON 5, 10 A.M.-2 P.M. St. Dominic ‘Get Ready for Christmas Bazaar and Craft Sale.’ Proceeds will be used to build a parish kitchen.

MON 19, 7 P.M.-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Public Meeting, 1100 4th St. SW, DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

SAT 24, 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW. Copies of November selection ‘When She Was White’ by Judith Stone are available for checkout at the library.

MON 26, 7 P.M.-8:30 P.M. SWNA Meeting, 600 M Street SW.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, Third Wednesday of each month. River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

AYA COMMUNITY MARKETS “a farmers market and holistic health experience”, every Saturday Aug 4th-Nov 17th, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th Street

SW. Visit: ayamarkets.org, phone: 202-332-1306. Provides resources for healthy and sustainable communities through farm fresh produce; educational health speakers and live musical performances; locally produced handmade crafts and baked goods; art, youth activities and more.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6 P.M. - 9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, Various Blue musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

COMPUTER CLASSES, THURSDAY 10 A.M.-12 noon, SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW.,

THURS 8 NO CLASS SCHEDULED

THURS 15 MICROSOFT EXCEL

THURS 22 LIBRARY CLOSED/NO CLASS SCHEDULED (THANKSGIVING DAY)

THURS 29 MICROSOFT POWERPOINT

THURS DEC 6 INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL COMPUTERS

HAND DANCING CLASSES, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Saturdays, 12 P.M.-2 P.M. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth SW, Community room off Wesley Place, SW.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6 P.M.-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, every Third Thursdays, 7 P.M.-8 P.M., Location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, every Last Saturday, 10 A.M.-11 A.M., Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th Street S.E.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 A.M.-11:30 A.M., SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 P.M., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street SW, (202) 554-3222.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, Mondays, 9:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street SW. Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except June, July and August.

SW FREEWAY, NA, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 P.M.-8 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7 P.M.-9 P.M. First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW. 202-291-6229.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, 4 P.M. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5 P.M. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). 5:30 P.M. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 P.M. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 P.M. Narcotics Anonymous SW Free-Way Meeting.

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS, 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M., SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

ZUMBA GOLD, 11 A.M.-noon. Fridays, Low-impact exercise/dance class for seniors, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW. FREE

PLEASE NOTE the Library will be closed on Mon. Nov.12 in observance of Veteran's Day and Fri. Nov. 30 for staff development.

■ Please submit calendar items by the 13th day of the preceding month to calendar@thesouthwester.com.

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Southwest Celebrates SW ArtsFest 2012

By the Organizers of SW ArtsFest

Southwest D.C.'s second annual SW ArtsFest, on Sept. 29, proved to be a great success. Overall attendance, including offerings at all ten locations, soared well above 10,000, a huge increase over SW ArtsFest 2011. SW ArtsFest 2012 formed part of Art4All DC, a six-week autumn arts celebration across D.C.'s four quadrants.

SW ArtsFest 2012 started in the morning at three neighborhood churches, with Christ United Methodist's weekly farmers' market, Second Union Baptist's flea market, and St. Augustine Episcopal's annual End-of-Summer Fair.

Across the community, momentum built throughout the day.

The first-ever SW ArtsFest Central Art Market featured a dozen vendors and six hours of performances, ranging from Indian, Panamanian and American folk music to Middle Eastern dancing and mime. In the middle of the day, led by the Washington Nationals' favorite mascot, Teddy, dozens of decorated bicycles raced through the neighborhood to the Central Art Market — with Teddy as the winner, four days before his landmark victory in the Presidents' Race at Nationals Park. At the market, after his bicycle finished first, Teddy helped auction off rare Nationals memorabilia, including a ball signed by second baseman Danny Espinosa and a bat signed by rookie outfielder Bryce Harper.

Midday also saw popular highlights return from SW ArtsFest 2011. Scores of hand dancers formed a flash mob on the plaza outside Arena Stage. Inside, so many hand dancers, from preschoolers to seniors, crowded the Ammerman Rehearsal Hall that for five hours they exceeded the hall's seating capacity by 50%.

Meanwhile, crowds swelled both of Caro-

lyn Crouch's informative neighborhood walking tours, "Renewing Urban Renewal" and "Southwest Waterfront: From Watermen to Wreckers to 'The Wharf.'" At the Wharf, thanks to Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, kids and adults enjoyed live music while making nearly 200 sock puppets. And at Westminster Presbyterian Church, the 11th Annual D.C. Jazz Preservation Festival saw so many new and returning patrons that Westminster broke its all-time record for food sales.

Thanks to George Washington University's Documentary Center and to the D.C. Shorts Film Festival, after its farmers' market Christ United Methodist Church screened 11 new films. Among them, the animated "Why Do We Put Up With Them?" amusingly explained the longtime love affair between humans and dogs. "A Night at the Office" warned of the dangers — real and imagined — of working late. "The Bench" told of class struggle on a park bench. And "Friend Request Pending" — winner of the D.C. Shorts Audience Favorite Award — depicted pitfalls faced by two well-aged women who try through social networking to woo the local choirmaster.

SW ArtsFest 2012 climaxed at Nationals Park, with a scoreboard simulcast, from the Kennedy Center, of the Washington National Opera's production of Mozart's "Don Giovanni." One of the greatest operas ever composed, "Don Giovanni" weaves the story of the legendary rake Don Juan into a comically lighthearted, yet deadly serious, musical masterpiece.

The SW ArtsFest board of directors will meet soon to start planning SW ArtsFest 2013. To learn how you can help with SW ArtsFest 2013, email swartsfest@gmail.com or call 202-320-0286.

Highlights of Monthly PSA 105 Meeting

By John McGrath

Sept. 20, 2012, 7-8:30 P.M., River Park Cooperative Homes

Participants: Sgt. Michael Architzel (substituting for Lt. Nicholas Gallucci); Naomi Monk and Irv Gamza, PSA 105 meeting coordinators/facilitators and John McGrath, recorder. A total of 22 persons were in attendance.

1. Sgt. Architzel reviewed the crime statistics year-to-date through September 3, 2012 compared to 2011: (a) there have been two murders by stabbing in 2012; there were no murders last year; (b) Robbery is down 10.9% (41 vs. 46); several robberies or attempted robberies involved juveniles, but no juvenile arrests have been made; (c) Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW) is down 11.8% (30 vs. 34); ADW includes instances of domestic violence; (d) Burglary is up 12.1% (37 vs. 33); a First Police District (ID)-wide burglary squad has been formed by Commander Hickson; (e) Theft (includes shoplifting, bicycle theft and theft of property in government building) is down 5.2% (146 vs. 154); (f) Theft from Auto is up significantly 90.7% (82 vs. 43); police warn residents to lock all valuables including GPS devices in the trunk of your car; and (g) Stolen Auto is down significantly 52.9% (24 vs. 51). All told PSA 105 is second in crime reduction among all PSAs in ID.

2. Sgt. Architzel also noted an increase in police attention in the 1200 block of Delaware Ave. SW, the 200 block of N St. SW, and the O St. Circle SW (300 O St.) in response to complaints about open-air drug sales. There are many arrests for misdemeanor possession of drugs in any month, but drug-related activity is steady year-to-year in PSA 105.

3. The recent theft of equipment from the SW Branch Library is believed by police investigators to have been instigated by a library employee and is related to thefts at other D.C. branch libraries.

4. A River Park resident reported juveniles have been jumping the perimeter fence near the 300 O St. SW circle. Marijuana use on River Park property is suspected. The River Park Security Committee Chairperson promised to follow up on these reports.

5. In response to audience questions about property crimes reported to the police, particularly vandalism to a vehicle, police acknowledged that technical problems in the ID automated reporting system may sometimes cause data/reports to be dropped from the system.

6. When in doubt, call 911 about suspicious activity or to report illegal traffic activity.

■ *Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, 7-8:30 p.m., Potomac Place, 800 Fourth St. SW.*

Arena Stage Holds Memorial for Philanthropist

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater held a memorial on Oct. 8 for Dr. Jaylee Montague Mead, the NASA astronomer and arts philanthropist who died in September.

Jaylee and her late husband Gil were avid theater-goers and loved musicals the best. Together the Meads donated more than \$50 million to theaters in Washington D.C. Arena Stage's Mead Center was named in their honor.

In celebration of Jaylee's life in words and songs, perhaps the closing medley — *Good Morning, Starshine* and *Let the Sunshine In* — best summed up a woman who was passionate and positive both about her career as an astronomer and as a musical theater-goer.

■ *By Sheila Wickowski, a freelance arts and culture journalist and longtime resident of Southwest who has contributed work on history, theater, music, and the arts to area publications for more than twenty years.*



Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith addresses guests at the memorial service for Dr. Jaylee Montague Mead. (Photo courtesy of Arena Stage)

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Secular Columbarium for the Island at (e)merge art fair

By Sheila Wickouski

Brooklyn artist Leigh Davis describes her art project, "Secular Columbarium for the Island," as an installation that would be an imagined memorial of artifacts from Southwest's history mixed with associated objects, to create a "mythologization."

Davis's process uses art and research, blending interviews with residents with her inspiration to create this unique piece which connects the (e)merge art fair with the neighborhood where it is located.

In an interview, Davis shared her thoughts about the project.

What was your your experience as an artist creating this work?

It was a layered process. I began by researching online, reading books and archives in the library, talking on the phone, and communicating with people of SW through email.

The exciting part happened once I got to SW. I entered the area I had learned so much about... not just the site of the fair... but the neighborhood surrounds. This added a whole new layer to my process.

As I walked around the neighborhood and I began to meet people – either those I had previously contacted, or new people in SW – I added their facts, their stories and their items (T-shirts, photos, a napkin, ads). Plus each day I added more from the area (Subway cup, seeds on the ground, etc).

Once the installation was set up, I also created a "guide" for the visitors to the fair to reference the objects in the installation and their relationship to SW.



Artist Leigh Davis at her (e)merge exhibit on Southwest D.C. (Photo by Perry Klein)

Want to Know More?

www.leighdavisprojects.com
Contact Leigh Davis at (347) 341-1875 or davis.leigh@gmail.com
www.theisland.bera.me

What are some of the things you heard from the residents while you were creating this work?

The most interesting anecdotes came from resident Vanessa Ruffin and former resident Paul ("South") Taylor. I think the fact that these two people grew up in SW, down the street from the hotel, interested me. They had stories about the first this, or that. About the alley and the community. About the celebratory times of being young.

I also found that the black experience of growing up in SW had more of a resonance with me than the white experience of the area. Per-

haps because there are events, or moments that talk about the roots of segregation in the area (and the whole of the city) yet still such a rich and celebratory community.

What were some of the response you got from from other artists at the (e)merge fair and from the visitors who saw it?

The viewer comments at the fair were most valuable, especially from people who grew up in D.C. and had some idea of the area and its transformation over the years up to now, but who had no context to think about them.

One aim in the work was to make a connection from the neighborhood outside to inside the hotel – to create an exchange – and this was successful.

The big question is of course, what next, both for this piece which you had to disassemble to move and also what plans for the future?

I have put the project and a text about it online... a place for it to be virtually, if it cannot be physical. The next idea is to continue on a project dealing with some of the themes I found of interest in SW for another project next spring.

I am certainly more intrigued with SW now, after spending so much time thinking about it. I want to do a more specific study – a photographic work – on housing in SW.

■ By Sheila Wickouski, a freelance arts and culture journalist and longtime resident of Southwest who has contributed work on history, theater, music, and the arts to area publications for more than twenty years.

Notes On the Nats

Foundation in Place – Can't Wait 'til Spring

By Zev Feder

The Washington Nationals 2012 season was a huge success. But its importance for the District of Columbia is far more than the pleasure it has brought to the region.

Yes, the team was a credit to the city and a steady source of excitement, joy and fun. Even love. Blah, blah, blah. I won't dwell on all that. I will leave that to *The Washington Post* sports section that has finally, if a little late, been doing a fine job of celebrating the achievements of our beloved home team. (The only "home" Major League baseball team in the Washington Metropolitan Region, guys).

Yes, next year brings a starting pitching rotation of Stephen Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez, Jordan Zimmermann, Ross Detwiler, and Surprise-Sure-To-Come, whether in-house or out (of) house. That rotation, on paper, is more promising than the amazing five we had this year, but with another year's maturity and experience that the four named young hurlers will benefit from. I expect every team throughout the league will be attempting to keep pace, but we are setting the pace and welcome the competition.

Yes, I expect great improvement in

See "Nats," page 11

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*Source: Preventable Risk Factors Attributed to Preventable Causes of Death in the District of Columbia, 2007, Department of Health Center for Policy, Planning, and Epidemiology, State Center for Health Statistics

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For more information about resources in your neighborhood, visit dccanceranswers.org

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Alex Brewer, left, and Stuart Golley, right, covered the brick church with brightly colored paint the first week of painting. (Photo by Steffanie Giesler)

From Vacant to Vibrant, An Old Church is Transformed

By Catherine Hamm

A wrought-iron fence spray-painted neon pink is not something one would expect to see in an old southwest D.C. neighborhood. At 700 Delaware Ave. SW the fence is the last thing that stands out against an old church that has been completely transformed into a mural. Formerly a place of worship, the historic building is now an eclectic blend of vibrant colors and whimsical designs.

Atlanta-based artist Alex “Hense” Brewer was commissioned to create a work of art out of this run-down, empty building. “The bigger picture of all of this is for this neighborhood to become a hub for art in D.C. and to show people you can take something and re-purpose it in a positive way,” he said.

The enormous mural is only the first step in a transition to making southwest D.C. a destination for art. Recently, the vacant building across the street from the church was purchased by an investor who plans to turn it into an art museum. This gradual evolution should evoke a sense of



Atlanta-based artist Alex Brewer is known for using bright colors and shapes in his murals. Brewer painted the former church, located at 700 Delaware Ave. SW, over a two-week time. (Photo by Steffanie Giesler)

community for its residents. “Having so many different things going on really brings everyone together,” said Arruda.

Neighborhood residents Hiep Nguyen and Pierce Bardin live in an apartment that overlooks the brightly colored building. “We’ve been watching the progress from our balcony and we’re excited to see what comes of it all,” said Nguyen. “Everyone around here seems really interested in it,” she said.

The church, built in the early 1900s, previously housed the congregation of the Friendship Baptist Church, and was designated as a D.C. historic site in 2004. This preservation protects the building from being torn down or drastically altered.

Hense hopes that his work will be viewed not only as a mural but also as a sculpture. “I want it to be very impactful, bold and viewed from afar,” he said. With the size of the building and use of bold colors, it’s hard not to see the building from both near and far.

CONVERSATION

From p. 1

money at a FANTastic March II fun walk/run to supply Amidon-Bowen classrooms with special reading materials. Harbour Square, a 4th Street residence, has raised money for uniforms for Amidon-Bowen students. These are only two examples of the continuing support from our SW community.

Amidon-Bowen parents who attended the discussion expressed satisfaction with the performance of teachers and with the “Tools of the Mind” program being implemented in the Early Childhood classrooms. (It was noted that the

gains by these students will not begin to show in test scores until they are tested in the 3rd grade.)

Although every school has its unique strengths and needs, the concerns of Ward 6/ Southwest parents and community members do not differ greatly from the needs of the rest of the areas in D.C. Strong community and parent involvement, welcoming environment, good teachers, diverse opportunities for children, resources and wrap-around services – all are ingredients for quality schools in schools in every part of the District.

■ *Meg Brinckman is a longtime contributor to The Southwester on education issues.*

NATS

From p. 10

our lineup, as well. Wilson Ramos will be back and the competition with Kurt Suzuki and Jesus Flores at catcher can only upgrade the position. Adam LaRoche, hopefully, will return and bring 30 more home runs and bunches of run-batted-in. Power bat Danny Espinosa, possibly the most athletic infielder we have, will spend the off-season learning a short, compact swing and come back an all-star second baseman. But slap-hitting Steve Lombardozi, who is a fan-favorite and has earned a chance at more playing time, may get it if Espi doesn’t grow into the hitter he should be. Ryan Zimmerman and Ian Desmond? Good to go. Just show up healthy and let’s do it again.

The outfield? Jayson Werth is – I didn’t think I would say this – worth the money we are paying him. He is a good outfielder and has pretty good power, but boy can he lead off and work the count. The guy is the most fun lead-off hitter I have rooted for since Maury Wills of the 1960s LA Dodgers. Bryce Harper will be even better next year than he was in the fine rookie year he just had. Imagine what that will look like. And Michael Morse healthy all season and back to his 30 home-run form?

From this season’s bench, Roger Bernadina, with his speed, hitting ability and athletic talent in the outfield will be back, as well. First baseman and converted outfielder Tyler Moore

could be ready to do in the Major Leagues on a full-time basis, if given the chance, what he has done on a part-time basis in the majors. A 30-home run potential is not a stretch here. Ditto for power-hitting lefthanded speedy outfielder Corey Brown.

Yes, all that leads to the best “Wait ‘till next year” scenario I can remember in my lifetime. But for the District of Columbia, the team’s success is ushering in something far more significant.

The neighborhood around Nationals Park is blooming. Apartment buildings, condominiums, office tenants, restaurants, parks, city life. Tax revenues to repay ballpark construction loans, invest in schools, infrastructure, health care.

Particularly exciting for Southwest is the expectation that the 1.6 to 2.0 billion dollar Southwest Waterfront will be breaking ground in the spring of 2013, as spring training begins for the Nationals in Viera, Florida. Added to the hugely popular Arena Stage, the development will transform Maine/M Street and the Waterfront, itself, into a World Class Waterfront neighborhood and another great source of prosperity for the District of Columbia.

Can’t wait.

■ *Zev Feder is a long-time Southwest resident with a life-long passion for baseball as a player, coach and, above all, fan.*



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MSC

TOUR

From p. 1

to a simple lifestyle and a strong sense of community is the glue that binds this group together.

Volunteers from several local community groups, including the Earth Conservation Corps, St. Augustine's parish, Washington Walks and D.C. Sail helped the marina residents manage the influx of landlubbers who, while touring the boats in two-hour chunks of time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, more than doubled the size of the marina community (which includes a number of recreational boaters). Proceeds from the event will support a number of local charities, including the Southwest Playground Project and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Fund.

We are thrilled that nearly 300 people from the land-based community wanted to see our boats and understand why we've chosen to live this way. The residents of the Gangplank Marina are grateful to all of the local volunteers who came out to help with the event, and to D.C. Councilmember Tommy Wells, who joined the group to celebrate the 2nd Annual Boat Home Tour and 2012 Live Aboard Boater's Day in D.C.



Jason Kopp on his houseboat, Argo. Jason is President of the Gangplank Slipholders Association. (Photo by Saadia Athias)



Joe Henderson on his houseboat, Blue Skies. Joe is a chiropractor. (Photo by Saadia Athias)



Debby Christianson's floating house barge, Miss Behavin'. (Photo by Saadia Athias)



Todd Luepker's yacht, Radio Gypsy. (Photo by Saadia Athias)

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